

Expansion of Jammu airport

***190. SHRI T.S. BAJWA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are going to expand the airport of Jammu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how much amount has been sanctioned for this project; and
- (d) how much land has been acquired for this expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various development works have been planned like extension of runway by 1300 ft. on runway 18 side to make it 8000 feet long, expansion of apron to accommodate more aircraft and expansion of Terminal Building to accommodate 350 arriving and 350 departing passengers and development of car park for Jammu airport.

(c) Finalization of estimates for the project is subject to acquisition of land by State Government and handing over of the same to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Estimated cost of the project was Rs. 33 crores in the year 2003.

(d) Approximately 97 acres.

Meeting of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council

***191. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first ever meeting of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council took place in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions that took place in the meeting;
- (c) whether any suggestions were put forward during the meeting; and
- (d) if so, the action taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ):

(a) Yes Sir, the first meeting of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council was held on 22nd July, 2006 in Delhi.

(b) and (c) In the meeting discussions were held on the need for ground water regulation, National Congress on Ground Water, representation of the States to be included in the Council and follow up action on the suggestions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, while inaugurating the meeting. Some of the important recommendations of the Council are as follows:—

- (i)** To organize Chief Minister's conference for enacting/early implementation of ground water legislation.
- (ii)** To prioritize action for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water in over-exploited critical/semi critical areas.
- (iii)** Preparation of ground water management plan for 31 agrarian distress districts and scientific advice for avoiding failed bore wells.
- (iv)** Constitution of Sub-Committees on More Crop and Income Per Drop of Water.
- (v)** Wider Dissemination of Information and Know-how and Need for Policy for Large Industrial Users of Ground Water.
- (vi)** Organizing National Congress on ground water at regular intervals.
- (vii)** Need for development of separate technologies for recharge specifically for urban areas.
- (viii)** Media campaign for artificial recharge to promote public awareness.
- (ix)** Linkages with Major National Programmes.

(d) The action taken on the recommendations is as follows:—

- (i)** State Chief Ministers have been advised to take suitable action for enactment/implementation of ground water legislation.
- (ii)** State Governments have been advised for adoption of artificial recharge to ground water and rain water harvesting in over-exploited/critical/semi critical areas.
- (iii)** District-wise reports on assessment of ground water availability and possibility of artificial recharge prepared for all 31 agrarian distress districts.

- (iv) All the Sub-Committees have been constituted and report of the Sub-Committee on 'More Crop and Income Per Drop of Water' has been received recently. First meeting of the other Sub-Committees were held.
- (v) The issue has been taken up with other Ministries for linkages with other National Programme viz. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Horticultural Mission.

Protection of ancient monuments

***192. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:**

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is facing severe financial crunch and the conservation work of monuments across the country is getting badly neglected;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to augment the financial resources of the ASI so that the ancient monuments of national and international importance are properly preserved and protected?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Considering the enormity of the task of conservation and restoration work of the heritage sites and monuments, Archaeological Survey of India requires more funds. However, this has not adversely affected the conservation of the protected monuments and sites.

The funds for conservation are augmented through public-private participation. The Ministry of Culture has also proposed that the Archaeological Survey of India may be allowed to retain their revenues accrued through sale of tickets for meeting the conservation needs.

The Archaeological Survey of India is making a need based assessment of funds which would be projected for consideration while submitting proposals for the eleventh plan.